CLAIMS

1. In a distributed computing environment, a method for distributing peripheral device operational metrics information, the method comprising:

receiving, by a first device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

responsive to receiving the command, performing, by the first device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the first device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device, such that the second or a third device has access to the metrics information independent of forwarding any request for the metrics information to the first device.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the first device by the second or third device.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

5. In a distributed computing environment, a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for distributing peripheral device metrics information, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, by a first device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

performing, by the first device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the first device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device, such that the second or a third device has access the metrics information independent of forwarding any request for the metrics information to the first device.

6. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

7. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the first device by the second or third device.

8. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

9. An imaging device comprising:

a memory comprising computer-executable instructions for distributing metrics information corresponding to imaging operations;

a processor that is operatively coupled to the memory, the processor being configured to fetch and execute the computer-executable instructions from the memory, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, by a first device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

performing, by the first device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the first device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device, such that the second device or a third device can access the metrics information independent of forwarding any request for the metrics information to the first device.

10. An imaging device as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

11. An imaging device as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the first device by the second or third device.

12. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

13. In a distributed computing environment, a method for providing real-time imaging metrics information, the method comprising:

receiving, at a server device, imaging metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device; and

responsive to receiving the imaging metrics, automatically communicating the at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics to an application.

14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the imaging device is a printer.

15. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the imaging operational metrics comprises page count and print media type information.

16. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

17. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the application comprises a billing utility or an order processing unit.

18. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

receiving a registration request from the application; and

wherein automatically communicating the at least a portion of the imaging device operational metrics to the application is based on the registration request.

19. In a distributed computing environment, a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for providing real-time imaging metrics information, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, at a server device, imaging operational metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device;

receiving, at the server device, a request from an application program for at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics; and

communicating the at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics to the application.

20. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and/or print media type information.

21. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

22. A server comprising:

a memory comprising computer-executable instructions for providing real-time imaging metrics information;

a processor that is operatively coupled to the memory, the processor being configured to fetch and execute the computer-executable instructions from the memory, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, at a server device, an unsolicited set of imaging operational metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device;

receiving, at the server device, a request from an application program for at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics; and

communicating the at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics to the application.